

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1           1. (Currently Amended) A device for data communication between a first  
2 host device or a further host device and at least one client device on a shared transmission path  
3 having:
  - 4           a first host device, which includes a host application;
  - 5           at least one further host device, which includes a host application;
  - 6           at least one client device, which includes a client application; and  
7           wherein a bus control module;  
8           the host devices each have having a master application interface module, which is  
9 linked in the transmission path;  
10           the host devices each have having a master application module which connects  
11 the particular host application to the assigned master application interface module;  
12           each client device has having a client application interface module, which is  
13 linked in the transmission path and is connected to the assigned client application;  
14           a bus control module is provided;  
15           the transmission path is being implemented as a data bus representing a ring  
16 connector;  
17           the respective master application interface module of each host device and the  
18 respective client application interface module of each client device, as well as the bus control  
19 module are being connected to one another by the data bus for exchanging data and/or signals  
20 with one another and  
21           the bus control module being implemented to control the access of the host  
22 devices to the data bus, wherein  
23           the bus control module is provided in the ring structure of the data bus and is  
24 connected to the respective master application interface module of each host device and the

25 respective client application interface module of each client device by the data bus for  
26 exchanging data and/or signals with one another and  
27                   the bus control module is provided with a counter which counts the pulses  
28 between the passage of two arbitration frames relayed on the data bus.

1                   2. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the host  
2 applications of the first and/or the further host devices have a processor.

1                   3-6. (Canceled)

1                   7. (Currently Amended) A method of data communication in a device for  
2 data communication as claimed in Claim 1 between a first host device or a further host device  
3 and at least one client device on a shared transmission path implemented as a data bus  
4 representing a ring connection, having the following steps:

5                   opening a communication connection between a host application running on the  
6 host device and a client application running on the client device;

7                   transmitting arbitration information on the data bus along the opened  
8 communication connection, the arbitration information containing data, on the basis of which the  
9 data bus is reserved for a predetermined time interval or for a predetermined data volume for a  
10 subsequent data transmission on the data bus along the opened communication connection;

11                   transmitting data and/or signals between the host application and the client  
12 application and/or between the client application and the host application on the data bus along  
13 the opened communication connection

14                   wherein the passage of an arbitration frame containing the arbitration information  
15 on the data bus is monitored by a bus control module in such a way that the pulses between two  
16 passages of the arbitration frame are counted and

17                   wherein a new arbitration frame having a deactivated activity bit is transmitted by  
18 the bus control module when the number of counted pulses exceeds a predetermined value.

1                   8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the  
2 arbitration information is transmitted as an arbitration block, an arbitration block having  
3 arbitration data which includes information about the length of the predetermined time interval  
4 or about the extent of the predetermined data volume for the subsequent data transmission.

1                   9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the  
2 arbitration block has activity data which includes information about the current state of the  
3 transmission path, from which it may be concluded whether the transmission path is currently  
4 being used for data transmission.

1                   10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein in the  
2 event of an access wish of a host application to the transmission path, the following steps are  
3 performed:

4                   the master application interface module assigned to the host application accepts  
5 the arbitration block present on the transmission path,  
6                   reads out the activity data,  
7                   checks, on the basis of the activity data, whether the transmission path is currently  
8 free for data transmission,  
9                   writes, if the transmission path is free, activity data in the arbitration block which  
10 indicates use of the transmission path by the host application, and  
11                   transfers the arbitration block to the bus control module via the transmission path;  
12                   upon which the bus control module reserves the transmission path for the access  
13 by the host application.

1                   11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 10, wherein after  
2 termination of a data transmission, the activity data in the arbitration block is reset by the master  
3 application interface module and the transmission path is thus released again.

1                   12. (Currently Amended) A method of data communication in a device for  
2 data communication as claimed in Claim 1 between a first host device or a further host device

3 and at least one client device on a shared transmission path implemented as a data bus  
4 representing a ring connection, comprising:  
5 opening a communication connection between a host application running on the host device and a client application running on the client device;  
6 transmitting arbitration information provided in an arbitration block on the data bus along the opened communication connection, the arbitration information containing data, on the basis of which the data bus is reserved for a predetermined time interval or for a predetermined data volume for a subsequent data transmission on the data bus along the opened communication connection;  
7 transmitting data and/or signals between the host application and the client application and/or between the client application and the host application on the data bus along the opened communication connection;  
8 wherein in the event of an access wish of a host application to the transmission path, the following steps are performed:  
9 the master application interface module assigned to the host application accepts the arbitration block present on the transmission path,  
10 reads out activity data from the arbitration block,  
11 checks, on the basis of the activity data, whether the transmission path is currently free for data transmission,  
12 writes, if the transmission path is free, activity data in the arbitration block which indicates use of the transmission path by the host application, and  
13 transfers the arbitration block to the bus control module via the transmission path;  
14 upon which the bus control module reserves the transmission path for the access by the host application and  
15 wherein the passage of an arbitration frame containing the arbitration information on the data bus is monitored by a bus control module in such a way that the pulses between two passages of the arbitration frame are counted and  
16 wherein a new arbitration frame having a deactivated activity bit is transmitted by the bus control module when the number of counted pulses exceeds a predetermined value.

1                   13. (New) A device for data communication between a first host device or a  
2 further host device and at least one client device on a shared transmission path having:  
3                   a first host device, which includes a host application;  
4                   at least one further host device, which includes a host application;  
5                   at least one client device, which includes a client application; and  
6                   a bus control module;  
7                   the host devices each having a master application interface module, which is  
8 linked in the transmission path;  
9                   the host devices each having a master application module which connects the  
10 particular host application to the assigned master application interface module;  
11                   each client device having a client application interface module, which is linked in  
12 the transmission path and is connected to the assigned client application;  
13                   the transmission path being implemented as a data bus representing a ring  
14 connector;  
15                   the respective master application interface module of each host device and the  
16 respective client application interface module of each client device being connected to one  
17 another by the data bus for exchanging data and/or signals with one another and  
18                   the bus control module being implemented to control the access of the host  
19 devices to the data bus, wherein  
20                   the bus control module is provided in the ring structure of the data bus and is  
21 connected to the respective master application interface module of each host device and the  
22 respective client application interface module of each client device by the data bus for  
23 exchanging data and/or signals with one another and  
24                   the bus control module is provided with a counter which counts the pulses  
25 between the passage of two arbitration frames relayed on the data bus and  
26                   wherein in the case of a blocked data bus the bus control module transmits a new  
27 arbitration frame having a deactivated activity bit in order to release the blocked data bus.  
28